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cliff overhanging the ocean. A nest was found on Anacapa which contained a single addled egg.

**Vermivora celata sordida.** Dusky Warbler. Very abundant in the wooded parts of Santa Cruz Island.

**Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus.** Rock Wren. Adults and full-grown young seen on the rocky slopes of Santa Barbara. Also noted on Anacapa.

**Thryomanes bewicki nesophilus.** Santa Cruz Island Wren. Common among the fallen pines on Santa Cruz. Young just able to fly were seen. One nest, containing four eggs on the point of hatching, was found in a hole in the canyon wall, about seven feet up, made of sticks and feathers.

**Psaltriparus minimus californicus.** California Bushtit. One flock seen in the brush on Santa Cruz Island on July 7.

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Late Fall Occurrence of the Black-headed Grosbeak.**—On November 23, 1912, I took a specimen of the Black-headed Grosbeak (*Zamelodia melanocephala*) at Riverside, California. The occurrence is of interest on account of the date, which is so far from the ordinary movement of this species in California, as well as from the fact that the bird is in full autumnal plumage.

So far as I have been able to learn, with the courteous assistance of Mr. J. Grinnell, there is no published account of the bird's having been taken in the United States otherwise than in the breeding or in the first juvenal plumage. The specimen at hand is not in either of these plumages, and appears fresh and unworn. Beebe in "Two Bird Lovers in Mexico" speaks of the grosbeaks in their dull winter plumage looking like large sparrows; but so far as I can learn, the fall plumage is not familiar to many CONDOR readers. The specimen was a female with well developed ovaries, which would suggest that the bird had passed one breeding season and might be considered an adult. Mr. Grinnell offers the suggestion that in this species first-year individuals may perhaps be subject to a period of autumnal sexual activity, as is probably the case with certain of the resident species of the southern part of the state. The female in hand may thus be a bird of the year. It seems now impossible to state with certainty that the bird is either adult or juvenal.

The plumage is notable for the rich tan suffusion of the breast, the obscuring of white spots by buffy feather tips, the fact that spots have not been lost by sloughing off of barbs such as occurs in worn plumages of the species, and that the upper tail-coverts bear indistinct transverse bars.

The specimen has been deposited in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California and may be referred to as no. 23431 of the collection of that institution.—  
LOYE MILLER.

**The Results of Some Miscellaneous Stomach Examinations.**—The following notes on the results of stomach examinations of several different species of birds should be of interest. The stomach contents does not represent in all cases the usual kinds of food taken by the species. The greater interest generally attaches to the unusual. It is important that both the usual and the unusual articles of diet be known.

**Porzana noveboracensis.** Yellow Rail. Rincon Valley, Sonoma County, California, November 17, 1912. Stomach contained 18 clover seeds (*Trifolium sp.*) and grass.

**Archibuteo ferrugineus.** Ferruginous Rough-leg. Cotati, Sonoma County, California, November 25, 1912. Stomach contained seven meadow mice (*Microtus californicus*). This appears to be the first definite record of a Ferruginous Rough-leg taken within the state for a number of years.

**Bubo virginianus pacificus.** Pacific Horned Owl. Berkeley Hills, Berkeley, California, December 15, 1912. Stomach contained two meadow mice (*Microtus californicus*) and 27 Jerusalem crickets (*Stenopelmatus sp.*).

**Geococcyx californianus.** Roadrunner. San Diego, San Diego County, California, September, 1912. Stomach contained a large horned toad (*Phrynosoma blainvilliei blainvilliei*).

**Chordeiles virginianus hesperis.** Pacific Nighthawk. Dutch Flat, Placer County, California, August 22, 1912. Stomach contained 1 wood-boring beetle (*Elaphidion sp.*), 17 wood-boring beetles (*Criocephalus agrestis*), 3 click-beetles (*Elateridae*), 3 curculios (*Balaninus sp.*), 3 metallic wood-boring beetles (*Melanophila sp.*), 1 grasshopper, 16 moths, 3

stink-bugs (*Podisus* sp.), and 2 stink-bugs. All of these insects are considered injurious. The specimen from which this stomach was taken is no. 23181, University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

*Sturnella neglecta*. Western Meadowlark. Los Banos, Merced County, California, April 21, 1911. Stomach contained over 40 plant lice (*Aphis brassicae*) along with parts of 8 ground beetles (*Pterostichus* sp., *Blapstinus* sp., *Coniontis subpubescens*), 1 snout beetle (order *Rhynchophora*) and parts of 12 crickets (*Gryllus pennsylvanicus*).

*Planesticus migratorius propinquus*. Western Robin. Orchard, Big Pine, Inyo County, California, January 23, 1911. Stomach contained 192 small cutworms.—H. C. BRYANT.

**The Stephens Fox Sparrow in Marin County, California, once more.**—The recent cold spell and unusual snowfall in California during the first half of January, 1913, brought to mind the association of such an occurrence with the presence of Stephens Fox Sparrows on the higher ranges at San Geronimo, Marin County, California (See CONDOR, xiv, March, 1912, p. 63).

On the first opportunity that offered, which happened to be January 21st, a trip was made to the spot where these birds had been seen on other occasions and under similar circumstances. Frost and ice were in evidence that morning on all sides, but these disappeared as the bright sun warmed up the atmosphere. The top of the range was reached by eleven o'clock, and a careful search for the expected visitors was made. At first none was to be seen, but finally one was observed to pop up out of a ceanothus bush and at sight of a human being to dart back into his dense refuge, while all efforts to bring him to view again were fruitless.

The same thing happened with another, after which two hours of watching, alternated with tramping through the brush, were passed before another was seen. This one was almost stepped upon in a little thinner brush, and in his fright stayed on top of a bush long enough to be fatal. It was very close shooting, but a good many feathers and the bill remained—enough to identify the bird positively as *Passerella stephensi*, as was expected. It proved to be a female, as were all the others in our collection from this locality. No more were found on this date, nor was a single one identified on a second trip made to the spot four days later, though a few slight sounds were heard that seemed to indicate the presence of one or two.

As a rule some of the numerous subspecies of *Passerella* that winter along our California coast are very numerous at San Geronimo at this season; but this year they seem extremely scarce, and only one was seen in the two days tramping above spoken of.—JOSEPH MAILLIARD.

**Artificial Hatching of a Cassin Auklet.**—While studying birds on Off-shore Rock, Humboldt County, California, in company with F. J. Smith, I took from a burrow a stone-cold Cassin Auklet's egg, advanced in incubation, and placed it in a fish basket together with other eggs.

This was about noon on July 21, 1912. The basket was carried about for several hours, then placed in a boat for an hour, removed to a train for a thirty mile run and at 7 p. m. carried home, where it was placed on a table and left over night. The next morning peeping was heard from within the basket and on hunting out the egg from which the sound came, it was placed in a cigar box on a bed of cotton, the box then placed in a warm oven. At 4 o'clock p. m. the same day, July 22, a wet, sticky, yolk-covered auklet, struggling for freedom, broke through the shell.

Left on the cotton in the box it was placed in the warm sunshine to dry. After being thoroughly dried, Mr. Smith's mother fed it bits of boiled egg, which it seemed to relish and stretched its little neck to receive.

The auklet was kept warm in cotton and fed regularly for several days. Its little body grew to a length of 3.75 inches, with an extent of wings of exactly 3.75 inches also, the down on the bird's body fluffing out thick and warm. On July 26, at just 10 o'clock A. M., our little Cassin Auklet (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*) passed away, leaving no trace of reason why it had died, with all the care that had been given it. The bird lived just ninety hours. It is now skin no. 275 of my collection.—C. I. CLAY.

**Gambel Quail (*Lophortyx gambeli*) in Colorado.**—Regarding the status of this bird in Colorado I think I may be able to throw some light. It has for some years been believed to be a rare resident in the southwestern corner of the state. Prof. Cooke gives the Morrison record of these birds having been taken forty miles southwest of Fort Lewis. Sclater

in his "History of the Birds of Colorado", in speaking of this record says that it would carry the species well over into New Mexico, which it probably would as Fort Lewis is only about twenty miles north of the New Mexico line.

That being true, this may possibly be the first record of its having been actually taken in the state. In the latter part of September, 1912, in company with Prof. Figgins I took a collecting trip through the southwestern quarter of Colorado. Our first work was done in the Uncompahgre Valley after the California Quail (*Lophortyx californica*). Up to this time *L. californica* was supposed to be the quail of this section of the state. This valley, or the part of it that we worked, is between 100 and 120 miles north of the New Mexico line, and between 54 and 60 miles east of the Utah line.

We took ten birds and all were *L. gambeli*. Not a specimen of *californica* did we find in our two days' drive up and down the valley. *Gambeli* was everywhere and so abundant in places that I could have taken them by the hundred if I had so wished to do. Later, in correspondence, a resident there said he thought there were two species of quail in the valley, and that he would be glad to send us some of the other kind. He sent us two lots of them, but they all proved to be *gambeli*.

I might add that our trip took us through Montezuma and La Plata counties, the two southwestern counties of the state, but that we failed to learn of Gambel Quail in either of these counties. Of course this does not necessarily mean they are not there. This does, however, settle the fact that they are residents of the state and that they are locally abundant.—L. J. HERSEY, *Curator of Ornithology and Mammalogy, Colorado Museum of Natural History*.

**Some Winter Notes From the Bitter Root Valley, Montana.**—On December 26, 1912, I saw a Townsend Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) eating the berries from a red cedar. It was very tame, allowing me to approach within twenty feet before leaving, then only flying a little way. A few minutes later on the same day, I flushed a Long-billed Marsh Wren from a cattail swamp. Within a hundred yards of the wren were six Red-winged Blackbirds.

This is the warmest valley in Montana, so we have here birds which usually winter farther south. Western Meadowlarks winter here abundantly. Mallards and Killdeer are always fairly common, Wilson Snipe are regular winter visitants, and Golden-eyes are rare winter visitors, arriving in the valley about January 1, and leaving about March 1. A Mourning Dove was seen two miles southwest of Corvallis during December, 1912.—BERNARD BAILEY.

**A Northern Winter Station for the Band-tailed Pigeon.**—On the south side of the Pit River, about two miles from its junction with the Sacramento is a certain hillside to which Band-tailed Pigeons (*Columba fasciata*) regularly resort during the winter season. I am accustomed to pass that point several times each year, on my way from Pitt, the Southern Pacific junction, to Wyndam, on the line of the Sacramento Valley and Eastern. The motormen and conductors told me that they had frequently seen flocks of pigeons there, and on one occasion I was fortunate enough to see a small flock myself, as we passed by. On February 22, 1913, the motorman stated that he had the previous week seen a flock of two or three hundred. It has seemed to me remarkable that these flocks should come yearly to the same hillside, where they sometimes linger for many days, and further remarkable that they are not observed elsewhere in the run of twelve or fifteen miles from Pitt to Bully Hill.—C. H. GILBERT.

**Early Arrival of the Black-headed Grosbeak.**—On the morning of February 15, 1913, about ten o'clock, there appeared at my window-shelf bird-table a gorgeous male Black-headed Grosbeak (*Zamelodia melanocephala*). He helped himself to the bread on the board and when frightened flew into a nearby elderberry tree. He came back to the table several times and was about for most of the forenoon. I have not seen him since. My earliest record for these birds last year is March 25, when a male came to this same bird-table. Not only is this early appearance of the Black-headed Grosbeak of interest, but the fact that he was in full summer plumage seems worthy of note. He was one of the bright-plumaged males, not having the dull coloring that some of these males have even in the summer time.—HARRIET WILLIAMS MYERS.